

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VOE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 911

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 152

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: PUBLICITY ON CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI DUBLIN VISIT

REF: BELFAST 147

LOCAL PRESS LARGELY PREOCCUPIED WITH CONVENTION
ELECTION HAS CARRIED LITTLE NEWS OF CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI
VISIT TO DUBLIN. CATHOLIC-ORIENTED IRISH NEWS HOWEVER
BELATEDLY CARRIED FOLLOWING ARTICLE PAGE 5 MAY 2:
QUOTE.

CONGRESSMAN TO PROTEST ON VISA REFUSAL

A NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN IS TO TESTIFY BEFORE A SPECIAL
UNITED STATES COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION ABOUT THE REFUSAL OF
AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TO GRANT ENTRY VISAS TO PROMINENT
MEMBERS OF IRELAND'S PROVISIONAL REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT.

MR. MARIO BIAGGI, A LONG STANDING SUPPORTER OF
NORTHERN IRELAND AID IN AMERICA, OUTLINED HIS PROTEST PLANS
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN ORGANIZED BY PROVISIONAL
SINN FEIN.

HE WAS FLANKED BY SEVERAL LEADING PROVISIONALS WHO
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HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO ENTER THE UNITED

STATES - AMONG THEM SINN FEIN PRESIDENT, RORY O' BRADY,
SEAMUS LOUGHRAN AND JOE CAHILL.

MR. BIAGGI, A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN FROM THE BRONX,
SAID OF HIS COUNTRY'S REFUSAL TO AUTHORISE THE VISAS
"THERE IS AN AROMA ABOUT THIS WHICH IS UNSAVOURY. THIS
POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN MY JUDGMENT, GOES
AGAINST THE LAW. WHEN I RETURN WE WILL TESTIFY BEFORE
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION."

HE HAS THE BACKING OF AN UMBRELLA LOBBY GROUP CALLED
THE IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS. THEY FEEL THE NO-VISAS
RULING RUNS CONTRARY TO THE UNITED STATES FAIRNESS
DOCTRINE WHICH MAKES IT OBLIGATORY FOR "OPINIONS OF A CONTRARY
NATURE" TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.

DURING HIS STAY, MR. BIAGGI SPOKE TO OFFICIALS AT
DUBLIN'S UNITED STATES EMBASSY BUT WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO
VISIT PORTLAOISE PRISON WHERE TOP CONVICTED PROVISIONAL IRA
MEN ARE HELD.
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